

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2010
3:30 P.M.

Councilman Rico, Chairman, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order, with Councilpersons Berz, Benson, Scott, Gilbert, McGary, and Murphy present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Greg Haynes, Paul Page, Jerry Stewart, Steve Leach, Alice Canella, Lee Norris, Larry Zehnder, Chief Parker, Jim Templeton, Gary Hilbert, Dennis Malone, Daisy Madison, Barry Bennett, Bill Payne, Richard Beeland and John VanWinkle.

Adm. Leach went over agenda items beginning with **Ordinances (a) and (b)**, which will involve public hearings.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Ordinance (f) is an abandonment of the 600 Block of Druid Lane for the City of Chattanooga. Mr. Malone noted that Danny Thornton originated this; that it was unfeasible to build on and each half would go to adjoining property owners.

Resolution (e) authorizes Contract No. R-09-001-401 to Thompson Engineering, Inc., South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Project, for construction engineering inspection, in an amount not to exceed \$158,280.00. Mr. Malone noted that they had previously come to the Council with a change order to Barge, Waggoner; that TDOT did not concur with us; that the two contracts are tied together and there are two Phases to the work. Adm. Leach noted that **Resolution (f)** picks up the contract for construction, Contract No. R-09-001-201 to RBA Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$2,544,927.85, with a contingency amount of \$130,000.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,674,927.85. Councilman Murphy asked the funding source and was told HPP funds--\$2.1 million is Federal and the rest comes from Parks and Recreation. Councilman Murphy asked for an explanation of what this stood for—R is American Recovery Act and HPP stands for High Priority Projects (Congressman Wamp's office).

Resolution (g) authorizes Contract No. E-04-036-204 to Highways, Inc., for Enterprise South Roadway Extension Phase 1C, in the amount of \$3,003,036.75, with a contingency amount of \$300,000.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$3,303,036.75. Mr. Malone stated that we had done the sub-grade work in Phase I and this is to put on the topping.

Resolutions (h), (i), and (j) are all intersection improvements related to Enterprise South. In Resolution (h), we will enter into an agreement for professional services with Volkert and Associates relative to Contract No. E-09-020-101 Intersection Improvements at Discovery Drive at Hickory Valley Road and Discovery Drive at Enterprise South Boulevard in an amount not to exceed \$174,000.00. They did an Intersection Study and three were identified to be funded. Volkert is the designer. **Resolution (i)** authorizes an agreement for professional services with Lamar Dunn and Associates relative to Contract No. E-09-021-101, SR 153 Northbound Off Ramps at Jersey Pike and Bonny Oaks Drive Intersection Improvement, in an amount not to exceed \$190,040.00. **Resolution (j)** authorizes an agreement for professional services with Arcadis U.S., Inc. relative to Contract No. E-09-022-101, SR 58 and Hickory Valley Road Intersection Improvement, in an amount not to exceed \$137,440.00. This includes design. Adm. Leach noted that these were related to a previous study about deficiencies. Councilman Gilbert confirmed that this will improve the traffic flow at these intersections. Councilwoman Scott asked if it were possible to get the rest of the contracts; that the Council only has one page and there are 14 pages. Councilman Gilbert asked if they were doing anything with the wetland at Jersey and 153? Mr. Malone responded that they were widening to the 153 side to stay away from the wetland. Mr. Payne added that there is no natural outlet, and there is an overflow; that we have put in an overflow drain. Councilman Gilbert asked if it would be made more attractive, and the answer was “no”. Adm. Leach stated that it was a sinkhole, with Mr. Norris stating that it always had water in it.

Adm. Leach next reported on the snow situation, stating that his guys and gals worked hard, and he really appreciated the folks that worked for him; that we would probably have a total bill of \$85,000; that there were a lot of tree calls and there was a question of timing because we had to wait on EPB; that a lot of folks made this situation better. Councilman Murphy mentioned “plow blades”, with Mr. Templeton stating they went over their equipment.

Adm. Leach mentioned the power failure last week at Moccasin Bend, which happened at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. He stated that it had been a long week and a difficult situation; that Jerry Stewart would give a briefing of what happened and where we need to go.

M. Stewart stated that this was a “freak” thing; that the last time we had anything of this magnitude was the blizzard of 1993; that this was kind of an unusual occurrence. He provided a slide presentation, showing pictures of where the influent pump station was located, stating that it had to be functional to treat anything. He showed where the culverts were, stating that the pole had to be re-done. There were pictures of the areas where efforts occurred. He showed the switch gear and two major feeds. He stated there was nothing wrong with EPB feeds to us. He spoke of the generator that had to be brought in and five overflow points—the one at Market Street Bridget and Coolidge Park being the one that most were aware of.

Mr. Stewart went over the timeline, beginning at 8:55 a.m. when the explosion occurred. They called for a generator from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and it arrived at 3:30 p.m. TDEC was updated on the progress at 4:30 p.m. The plant was re-energized at 3:20 a.m. and the plant start-up initiated from 3:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. The west bank overflow subsided at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and by 4:00 p.m., Coolidge Park and Veterans Bridge overflow sites clean-up was performed.

Mr. Stewart went over the preliminary costs associated with this electrical outage (this is made a part of this minute material), with the total being \$42,514.32. Councilman Benson asked if this would come out of the Enterprise Fund and was told “yes”. Mr. Stewart stated that it should be even lower than this.

Adm. Leach stated that they really appreciated the Electric Power Board, consulting engineers, and their own staff.

Councilman Murphy asked why there was an explosion? Mr. Stewart explained that this happened when a fuse blows. Councilman Murphy stated that when he blew a fuse, it was caused by an overload. Mr. Stewart stated that this was a short dealing with a large voltage. Councilman Murphy asked what was the cause and was told by Mr. Stewart that it was something defective in the panel. Councilman Murphy asked if it were too old or installed incorrectly or if it could be a manufacturing defect. He asked Mr. Stewart what he thought. Mr. Stewart responded that it was the age of the thing and deterioration. Councilman Murphy stated that a \$.10 fuse will stay or will fail; that the equipment was getting old. Mr. Stewart responded that they were going back through their electrical system and working on a Plan. Mr. Payne added that no one really knows what caused this—that it was not necessarily a fuse. Councilman Murphy asked if it were a defective component, what are we doing to find the cause? Mr. Stewart again stated that they were going back through the whole system, including the panel itself; that they thought it was the pole; that when a fuse blows, you get back in business and take care of it; that this ran further down the line and shorted three fuses.

Councilwoman Scott asked if we would really ever know what happened and asked how often this is inspected? Mr. Stewart responded every 2-3 years; that we have to bring a generator in to thoroughly inspect, and it needs to be done in the summertime. She asked if what was on the poles is ours and was told “yes”.

Councilwoman Berz asked if they were re-thinking preventative maintenance and was told “yes”.

Councilman Benson stated that they had to endure a lot and that Mr. Stewart had been there 27 years. He asked if this had ever occurred before? Mr. Stewart responded that the closest thing was the blizzard of 1993 and a summer lightening storm. Councilman Benson thanked Mr. Stewart again, stating that he had to endure a lot. He asked if there would be any kind of penalty from TDEC?

Mr. Stewart responded that the potential was there; however they recognized that this was a random event. Councilman Benson asked if it could be considered “An Act of God”? Mr. Stewart responded “God forgives and EPA doesn’t”.

Councilman McGary asked about the pink shirts the Public Works Staff were wearing and was told they wear them the first Tuesday of every month. He asked if they anticipated the preliminary cost figure to go down and was told “yes”.

Councilman Gilbert asked if we tested water and was told “yes”. Mr. Stewart stated that if this had to happen, it was the best time because of the high flow of the river and cold weather was also the best time; that the hot summer would be the worst.

On motion of Councilman McGary, seconded by Councilman Murphy, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.